

## STUDY CIRCLE



**THE W. REGINALD BRAY COVER THAT FOOLED THE BRITISH,  
THE JAMAICAN AND THE AMERICAN POSTAL AUTHORITIES**

**By Michael Hamilton**



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## **BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE**

### **OBJECTIVES**

- 1 TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of the islands that comprise the British West Indies and in addition BERMUDA, BRITISH GUIANA (GUYANA) and BRITISH HONDURAS (BELIZE) and the Postal History and markings of all other Caribbean territories during any period that they were under British administration or control, and those British Post Offices which operated in the Caribbean, and Central or South America.
- 2 TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features of BWI interest. The BWISC BULLETIN was presented with the ABPS Specialist Society journal Award in 2004.
- 3 TO encourage, assist or sponsor the authorship and publication of definitive handbooks, monographs or other works of reference appropriate to the aims of the Circle. The BWISC has published over 20 books or Study Papers over the last 12 years, some of which have received prestigious awards.
- 4 TO hold an annual auction for the sale of members' material. Normally, prior to the auction, the BWISC holds its Annual General Meeting.
- 5 TO organise occasional display meetings including a biennial weekend Convention and bourse. This offers further opportunities for members to buy and sell material.
- 6 TO maintain an internet website where information about Circle activities is publicised and where much other relevant information is posted.
- 7 TO maintain a specialised library from which home members can borrow books.

**Opinions expressed in articles in this Bulletin are those of the authors  
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## SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS & INFORMATION

### MEETINGS & EVENTS

Saturday 4 July 2015 – The Study Circle will have a stand at MIDPEX, which is being held at the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Fosse Way, Leamington Spa, CV31 1XN, from 10.00 to 17.00.

Saturday and Sunday 3/4 October 2015 – Convention at the Honiley Court Hotel, Meer End Road, Honiley, Kenilworth, CV8 1NP. Formal displays will be given by Simon Richards, Dominica and Peter Ford, KGV stamps and proofs. There will be a dinner on Saturday evening, with Collett Award presentations.

The Hotel online booking system, on its web page, does not allow you to book 'BWISC allocation' rooms. You do need to contact the hotel directly, by email (sales@honileycourt-hotel.co.uk) or telephone 01926 484234, quoting 'BWISC allocation'.

LONDON 2015 EUROPHILEX show report.

Congratulations to Simon Richards for the award at London 2015 Europhilex of a Large Vermeil Medal for his display of 'Mail by British Packets from the West Indies 1663–1863'.

London 2015 was a major occasion, and we took a table to present the Study Circle, sell publications, and recruit new members. We sold over £1000 of books. Top sellers included David Horry's new book on Elizabethan postmarks, and the recently published *Tobago*, and *Nevis*. BWISC books by Fernbank, Fitz-Roett, Grimaldi, Jakes, Maisel, Oliver and Rego were also sold. We recruited four new members, Mike Atkins, John England, Kwok Ha, and Mike Roberts. Two or three others took away application forms with a promising degree of intent.

Peter Ford led the team on the table, with several members taking a turn over the four days, including Chris Southgate, Stephen King, Nigel Chandler, Terry Harrison, and Bruce Walker. Our new President Graham Booth, and immediate past President, Charles Freeland, were there, alongside other committee members

including Goldblatt, Jarvis, Podger, and Stanton. The table was visited by friends and members from as far away as Australia, Geoff Kellow, Trinidad, John Chay, and the USA, Wayne Menuz. Simon Richards flew the BWI flag in the competitive exhibition with his Maritime Mail display.

Apart from selling books, we had many interesting conversations with our fellow stand holders, with dealers, and with visitors to the Exhibition. And we enjoyed meeting many members from the UK who came by to say hello. Keith Hanman, indeed, was right next to us on Friday, on the Rhodesia / West Africa table, which was convivial.



Peter Ford and Stephen King on the BWISC table at London 2015

Congratulations to the following for their achievements with B.W.I. entries at the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show MAY 2015:-

Richard Maisel for the Grand Award the Cameron Award and Gold Medal for 'Nineteenth Century Sailing Ship Stamps of British Guiana'.

Fitz Roett for the Pre-1900 Medal and Gold medal for 'Barbados: the Line Engraved Issues of the 19th Century with Forerunners'.

David Cordon for the Research Medal and Gold Medal for 'A Study of Bermuda King George V Key Plates'.

Edward Watrous for the award of a Gold Medal for 'The Bahamas Post to 1935'.

John Paré for the award of a Gold Medal for 'The 1940 Bermuda Half-Penny Provisional Issue and its Postal Uses'.

Peter Ford for the Jim Stern Award and Vermeil Medal for 'The De La Rue Definitive Issues of British Guiana (1876–1932)'.

Paul Larsen for the award of a Vermeil Medal for 'Leeward Islands Federal Postal Stationery of the King George V Reign'.

John Wynns for the award of a Vermeil Medal for 'Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Issues of Br. Guiana'.

Duane Larson for the award of a Silver Medal for his 'Jamaica: the 1900-1901 Llandoverly Falls Issue'.

David Horry for the award of the Durnin Medal for the best Journal article.

### **SIMON ANDREWS 1958 – 2015**

After a harrowing illness, Simon Andrews died on January 23 2015, shortly before his 57th birthday. A veteran in the stamp trade, but only a recent recruit to BWISC, some of us may have met him while he struggled against insuperable odds to keep his stamp shop alive in Cecil Court, off St. Martin's Lane. Few would have known of his early days in the Navy, his talents as an engineer concerned with helicopters, or even known how highly he was regarded as a person of gentle kindness and complete trading integrity within the stamp world. To this he added, in recent years, developing skills as a postal historian. His early death is a loss not just to his family and friends but to the general world of stamps.

Simon Goldblatt

## ANTIGUA

PERKINS, BACON 6D DESIGN

BY CHARLES FREELAND



In researching material for the handbook on Antigua being written by John Jordan and myself, I have been puzzled by a strange looking impression of the Perkins Bacon 6d design on thin wove paper that has been sitting in my collection for some years. I am not too hopeful that it is significant, and it could be an outright forgery, but I think it worth asking our membership whether they can offer any insights into what it might be.

To add a little guidance, it is not the same as the Courbold head engraved by Jeens that was the design adopted, but it does have some similarities to the artist's impression that is illustrated on Plate XXXI of the De Worms' Perkins Bacon Records and now is in the Royal Collection.

## BARBADOS

THE DE LA RUE BRITANNIAS 1875 – 82

BY MICHAEL MEDLICOTT

This writer is not a specialist in the stamps of Barbados, despite having collected them since the 1950s. A fortunate recent purchase, however, has increased my holding to over 150 fully and legibly dated specimens of the De La Rue Britannia's perforated 14, as well as a smaller number of the preceding issue perforated 12½. All are cancelled in the GPO Bridgetown.

As a result, it has been possible to assign individual stamps to their proper consignments with some measure of confidence, establishing the order of issue of each shade. These results cast some doubt on the SG listing, and are occasionally at variance with Fitz Roett's classification in his admirable new handbook (Note 1). It is clear also that a few shades are scarce – in some cases distinctly rare – and are a product of the printers' colour-master, not the victim of "sulphuretted".

The perf. 12½ stamps were invoiced and shipped in single consignments for each denomination, starting with the ½d and 6d on March 19, 1875. Although there is some variation of shade, there is no question as to the dates of origin, and the perf. 12½ stamps will not be dealt with in this article.

Fitz Roett describes the issues in scholarly detail, and this writer's intention is to confirm, or occasionally repudiate, his assertions on dating the shades largely on the basis of his few recorded covers (vide p.184 et passim op.cit.).



**1. Halfpenny Bright Green: SG:72.**

A total of 492,000 stamps were invoiced in seven consignments from May 1876 to June 1881. Despite the occasional outlier, there is insufficient variation in the bright green shades to distinguish one consignment from another with certainty. Having said that, the first consignment (37,600 stamps, invoiced 13 May 1876) appears lighter in colour than the second (85,800 stamps, invoiced 7 March 1877). Shades in the subsequent consignments are comparatively consistent, but with tones of olive or yellow. One outlier, dated 'JA 17 82' and almost certainly from the seventh and last consignment (86,880 stamps, invoiced 4 June 1881) is a brilliant bluish green – distinct enough to be worth a hunt in dealers' stocks.

**2. One Penny Dull Blue/Grey-Blue: SG:73, 74.**

Fitz Roett (op.cit. p.184) expresses some uncertainty as to the date of issue of the dull blue shade, recalling the date of the earliest cover (August 1876), and suggests that it belongs to the second consignment (290,760 stamps, invoiced 13 May 1876); SG Part I (Note 2) ventures no opinion on the dates of issue. It is obvious that the dull blue shade, much the scarcer of the two, and rare in a strong blue, tends to fade towards grey, whilst the grey-blue cannot aspire to true blue.

It can now be established with certainty that the dull blue appeared in the first consignment (225,840 stamps, invoiced 19 March 1875 along with the perf. 12½ values) as well as the second consignment (290,760 stamps, invoiced 13 May 1876). The earliest example seen is dated 'JY 31 75'.

The grey-blue first appears with any consistency in the third consignment (216,480 stamps, invoiced 7 March 1877), but there are examples dated in the first consignment ('NO 29 75' and 'JA 5 76'). Either the first consignment was of mixed shades, or these two examples are changelings. The sixth consignment (368,160 stamps, invoiced 25 June 1879) shows a return to dull blue in a weaker shade, and probably contains all or most of the examples with reversed watermark. The eighth and final consignment (362,280 stamps, invoiced 4 June 1881) is mostly in a delicate pale dull blue. The huge quantity issued, and the volatile ink used, both contribute to the difficulty of the One Penny, a stamp well worth further study. (See check-list at the end of this article).

**3. Three pence Mauve-lilac. SG:75.**

Only 24,240 stamps were shipped to the island, in four consignments, for use on Ship Letters. Dated copies are scarce, and shades are hard to assign to printings with any certainty. This writer has seen no copy dated before October 1878, which would have given a definite allocation to the first consignment (6,120 stamps, invoiced 13 May 1876). Judging by shade and dated GPO postmark, the second consignment (4,800 stamps, invoiced 31 August 1878) was not exhausted by the time the third one arrived (6,720 stamps, invoiced 12 August 1880). The latest usage recorded by this writer is 'SP 27 83', but the absence of a provisional issue indicates that the three pence Britannia stock lasted until the arrival of the Queen's Head issue in 1885, an average rate of usage of only c.2,700 stamps per year. Shades range from a bright, almost luminous, lilac mauve, probably from the third consignment, through a duller, paler lilac to a single mint example in a dark, dull purple with rather rough perforations. This last outlier is possibly a colour trial, rejected because of its similarity to the One Shilling, especially by candle-light.

**4. Four pence Red, Carmine, Crimson-lake. SG:76, 77, 78.**

The first five consignments of the four pence, invoiced between 7 March 1878 and 4 June 1881 comprise 57,000 stamps or around 40% of the total, with the remaining 86,040 stamps arriving in the sixth and last consignment, invoiced on 6 July 1881. Roett asserts correctly that the Red was issued first (12,960 stamps, invoiced 7 March 1878); they lasted beyond the arrival of the second consignment in a rich, deeper red (12,000 stamps, invoiced 31 August 1878).

The third (12,960 stamps, invoiced 25 June 1879) and fourth (6,480 stamps, invoiced 12 August 1880) consignments appear to be in a consistent shade of carmine. The small fourth consignment contains stamps with watermark reversed. The only stamp seen by the writer in a bright, rosy shade and with roughish perforations, may belong to the fifth consignment; it is dated 'NO 19 81', well into the period

belonging to the sixth consignment, but is quite distinct from the crimson-lake shades seen dated from 'SP 9 81'. The last date seen by this writer is 'NO 3 82', but Roett notes a cover to Portsmouth bearing SG:77 (presumably a Carmine) dated 'NO 9 82'. The Queen's Head Four pence Grey was issued that year.

### 5. Sixpence Chrome Yellow, Yellow. SG:79, 80.

The genuine yellow stamp, it must be said, is scarcer in relation to the chrome yellow than its catalogue price would suggest. Only three dated examples in clear bright yellow are in the collection; two, dated 'SP 29 78' and 'SP 30 78', are apparently from the third consignment (33,660 stamps, invoiced 7 March 1878), and one, dated 'MY 10 80', is probably from the fifth consignment (11,990 stamps, invoiced 25 June 1879). There is evidence that the chrome yellow was sometimes still in stock when the next consignment arrived. Roett's assertion (op.cit.p.198) 'It is usually accepted that the Chrome-yellow stamp was the first to be issued. This is incorrect. Cover records indicate the yellow stamp originated from the first consignment. It is extremely doubtful whether any of the subsequent printings contained additional quantities of the yellow stamps' is surprising. The only cover recorded by Roett as bearing SG:80, the Sixpence Yellow, is to Demerara dated 'NO 20 1876' which would clearly have to be drawn from the first consignment. But is it truly a yellow? The current owner would need to verify.

Of the eight covers Roett records as bearing SG:79, the Sixpence Chrome Yellow, the earliest is dated JU 9 1877 and would have to be from one of the first two consignments. The balance of probability points in favour of the accepted wisdom that the Chrome Yellow came first; the Yellow followed in the third consignment on 7 March 1878 and perhaps again in the fifth consignment on 25 June 1879. Deeper, almost Ochre-yellow stamps bear the latest dates (even up to 'JA 24 87') and will have been drawn from the seventh and last consignment (13,750 stamps, invoiced on 4 June 1881).

### 6. One Shilling Purple, Violet (aniline), Dull Mauve. SG:81, 82, 83.

The fully dated copies available to this writer corroborate Roett's assertion that the violet (aniline) came first (23,320 stamps, invoiced 13 May 1876) but thereafter we differ. The second consignment (33,880 stamps, invoiced 7 March 1878) is in a pure, dull purple, followed by dull mauve in the third consignment (17,600 stamps, invoiced 31 August 1878). The purple stamps continue to be found up to 'JA10 79', mixed with dull mauve stamps, which was also the colour of the fourth consignment (34,760 stamps, invoiced 25 June 1879). The fifth consignment reverts to violet, but not of an aniline ink which would have penetrated the paper, as this ink does not. The sixth and final consignment reverts to shades of purple. (13,750 stamps, invoiced 4 June 1881); the latest use seen postmarked at the GPO is 'AU 26 85'.

### Check List

The sample size of Perf.14 stamps (150+) is probably too small to be statistically sound, but being fully dated in a single Office, the GPO Bridgetown, it is as close as one can get to an accurate allocation of shades to printings. Reports of fully dated copies of any denomination in Members' collections would be welcome.

There follows a summary of colour notes:-

#### 1. Halfpenny

CONSIGNMENT	INVOICED	COLOUR
First	'13 May 76'	Paler bright green
Second	'7 Mar77'	Deeper bright green
Third	'7 Mar 78'	Duller bright green
Fourth	'21 Aug 78'	Similar to first consignment
Fifth	'25 Jun 79'	Similar to second consignment
Sixth	'12 Aug 80'	Similar to third consignment
Seventh	'4 Jun 81'	Similar to third consignment (+ one brilliant shade)

## 2. One Penny

CONSIGNMENT	INVOICED	COLOUR
First	'19 Mar 75'	Dull Blue mixed with Grey stamps
Second	'13 May 76'	Dull Blue
Third	'7 Mar 77'	Grey-blue
Fourth	'7 Mar 78'	Grey-blue
Fifth	'31 Aug 78'	True Grey
Sixth	'25 Jun 79'	Dull Blue
Seventh	'12 Aug 80'	Dull Blue
Eighth	'4 Jun 81'	Dull Blue

Stamps retaining a strong blue tone are not easy to find.

## 3. Threepence

CONSIGNMENT	INVOICED	COLOUR
First	'13 May 76'	No certain date found
Second	'31 Aug 78'	Lilac-mauve
Third	'12 Aug 80'	Brighter lilac-mauve
Fourth	'4 Jun 81'	Deeper lilac-mauve

## 4. Fourpence

CONSIGNMENT	INVOICED	COLOUR
First	'7 Mar 78'	Red
Second	'31 Aug 78'	Deeper Red
Third	'25 Jun 79'	Carmine
Fourth	'12 Aug 80'	Carmine
Fifth	'4 Jun 81'	Single example bright rosy shade:rough perfs
Sixth	'6 Jul 81'	Crimson-lake or red fuzzy impressions

## 5. Sixpence

CONSIGNMENT	INVOICED	COLOUR
First	'13 May 76'	Chrome-yellow
Second	'7 Mar 77'	Similar to first consignment
Third	'7 Mar 78'	Clear bright Yellow
Fourth	'31 Aug 78'	Deep Chrome-yellow
Fifth	'25 Jun 79'	Pale yellow
Sixth	'12 Aug 80'	Pale to deep Chrome-yellow
Seventh	'4 Jun 81'	Chrome-yellow to Ochre

## 6. One Shilling

CONSIGNMENT	INVOICED	COLOUR
First	'13 Mar 76'	Deep Aniline Violet
Second	'7 Mar 78'	Purple
Third	'31 Aug 78'	Dull Mauve
Fourth	'25 Jun 79'	Similar to third consignment
Fifth	'12 Aug 80'	Mid to deep Violet (not aniline)
Sixth	'4 Jun 81'	Purple

**Disclaimer:** colour is a subjective minefield. Added to this, date is not always a reliable guide, used stamps can be changelings, and the sample size is quite small.

Notes: i. Barbados – The Britannia Issues. M.Fitz Roett, Charles Freeland & Peter Logmuier. BWISC 2013  
 ii. Commonwealth & British Empire Stamps 1840–1970. Stanley Gibbons 2014  
 iii. The Stamps of Barbados. Edward A Bayley 1989



**BOOTHEEL CANCELLATIONS ON IMPERFORATE BRITANNIA ISSUES.****BY JOHN RIGGALL**

SG:7



SG:9



SG:10



SG:10

On page 32 of Fitz Roett's new book (Ref 1) he records that two auctions sales in 1980 and 1984 contained an imperforate single purported to be SG:7 with a bootheel cancellation and comments "However, it is doubtful that any stamp of that printing would have survived for six years before being used". Michael Hamilton in his record of Parish Bootheels that had passed through his hands, published in 1999 (Ref 2), commences his list with the 1s SG:12 and makes no mention of the lower imperf values SG:7 to SG:11a.

I have a copy of SG:7 cancelled with bootheel 1, of the (1d) SG:9 with bootheel 3 and two copies of the (1d) SG:10, one with bootheel 2 and the other bootheel 10. They appear genuine, measuring at least 20mm x 23mm, with the exception of the bootheel 2 example which has a very narrow margin on the right hand side and is only 19.5mm wide. It is possible that this stamp might be SG:24 with the perfs clipped.

I would be interested to know if any other members have examples of lower values of the imperf 1855–1858 printings with bootheel cancellations.

Ref 1. Barbados. The Britannia Issues. Roett, Freeland and Longmuir. BWISC 2013.

Ref 2. Barbados Parish Bootheels. Hamilton. BCP Journal (Vol 39, No1) March 1999.

**BARBADOS 1D SCARLET SG:231AX**

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FROM DEREK TOWNSEND**  
(non-member – reply through the editor)



On being approached by me, Stanley Gibbons first listed the watermark multiple script CA reversed variety in their 2007 catalogue. I obtained a certificate for the stamp from the Royal Philatelic Society, London, in 2010, stating that the stamp was a genuine used copy with reversed watermark.

The fact that this variety only came to light in 2006 after 80–90 years leads me to believe that the others on the sheet have been 'binned'. Is it, therefore, possible that this is the only surviving example?

Any comments the members may have on this item would be greatly appreciated.

# Stanley Gibbons Auctions

*British West Indies usually feature in our auctions.  
Next sale June 17th*



Stamps featured are from previous auctions.

For a complimentary catalogue, contact from Ryan Epps [repps@stanleygibbons.com](mailto:repps@stanleygibbons.com)  
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## BRITISH GUIANA

### BWISC VICE PRESIDENT ATTENDS STAMP EXHIBITION IN GUYANA

BY ANN WOOD, PRESIDENT OF THE GUYANA PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Samuel Hinds, Prime Minister of Guyana with Ann Wood and Simon Goldblatt.

Members of the Guyana Philatelic Society (GPS) were thrilled to have Simon Goldblatt as their honoured guest during its 2015 Stamp Exhibition in Guyana. The stamp exhibition was held on 5 & 6 February at the Georgetown Post Office and at the New Amsterdam Post Office on 9 February. In attendance were Guyana's Prime Minister, Samuel Hinds, GPOC Acting Post Mistress General Karen Brown, and GPOC Board Members, hundreds of students, collectors, the media, and the general public. Exhibits of British Guiana and Guyana stamps were displayed and the history of world's most famous and most expensive stamp from British Guiana was featured.



School children attending the stamp exhibition held at the Georgetown Post Office.

Simon, myself, and the team also appeared on the leading television morning show in Guyana to promote the exhibition and stamp collecting. They also conducted TV interviews during the exhibition for the local television news broadcasts.

The GPS team hosted a tour where Simon visited many Post Offices between Georgetown and Charity. The tour covered parts of the East Bank of Demerara, West Bank of Demerara, the West Coast of Demerara and the Essequibo Coast. Notable Post Offices visited included Vreed-en-hoop, Parika, Suddie, Anna Regina, Charity and Wakenaam. The trip involved crossing the Demerara River via the Demerara River Bridge by car, riding in a chartered speed boat across the Essequibo river to Supenaam, taking a short ride on the Pomeroon river and, on the return to Parika, making a stop at Wakenaam island to visit the Post Office there.

The GPS team would like to thank Simon for taking the time to make this trip and for his contribution to the success of the exhibition. GPS would love other BWISC members to be a part of future events. For more information contact me at [guyanastamps@gmail.com](mailto:guyanastamps@gmail.com) or visit [www.guyanastamps.com](http://www.guyanastamps.com).

**GUYANAN TRAVELOGUE****BY SIMON GOLDBLATT**

Travelogues are not my usual theme, and I want to leave it to my friends Ann and the Guyana Philatelic Society (GPS) team to feed us with their account of the stamp events in which I participated in Guyana in early February 2015, and to proffer their selection from the many photographs that they took, armed with a camera that seemed to operate with the speed of a machine gun and an inexhaustible supply of photographic ammunition.

What the trip has done for me has been to bring to life the postmark collection whose assembly has given me so much pleasure, and to reinforce my admiration for the pioneers who started the postal services and kept them effective over a period when a single journey of any distance was an adventure in itself.

Of course, I have so far travelled only to the low-lying parts, that must have seemed home-from-home to the Dutch who gave the Guianas their first real exposure to European life. Yet flat land, barely above, frequently perceptibly below, the level of the surrounding waters, coupled with the power of the rivers that divide the country into segments, are not a recipe for comfortable living and easy communication. Almost every building lining coast or river bank sits on stilts (but with optimistic ground level accommodation incorporated, be it said), and the individuality of design and decoration reveals disseminated individual pride in belonging to the community of which the building forms part.

Communities are, I suspect, the life-blood of growing up and living in Guyana, so that the location names that come and go so quickly on a coastal journey (a huge-scale map would be needed to take them all in) probably reflect a host of familial and territorial loyalties that add meaning and colour to the passing years.

Goodwill abounds; so too the love of diversity. Hope; Good Hope; Better Hope; New Hope – no surprises here. Paradise (and a second one); Garden of Eden – these carry aspirations. Providence (we all know this one); Friendship; Adventure (in at least two places) – but English carries one only so far. You may visit Versailles, Danzig, the improbable Naarstigheid (have I got that right?) and by the time you breathe out you are in the village next door. There really is a Nigg and a Fyrish, separated only by a name board. Can one transfer the loyalties to no.2 village? Or no, 47? Certainly to no.50 and no.51. And what to make of Skeldon (its post office about the smartest of any we passed) but swallowed up in the anonymity of Corriverton. Personal names are not lacking; Anna Regina, Anna Catherina, Henrietta, all familiar from studies of postmarks. One of these may have fallen from grace, for one passes through Catherina's Lust, and not far away is Glazier's Lust – is there a moral here?

Plenty of Dutch, of course: your Beterverwagting, your Soedyke, your Zorg, your Tuschen (de Vrienden), your Vreed-en-Hoop, your Meten-Meer-Zorg, where a delightful small museum offers a panoramic view of the surroundings. Probably Kyk Over Al, hard by Bartica, where the Essequibo River gathers its surge towards the sea from the confluence of the Mazaruni and the Cuyuni, presents an equivalent panorama of this early outpost of civilised life among the mingling waters. We hope that the museum just mentioned will receive a small philatelic addition to this current display in that field, which lags slightly behind quite a rich array of artefacts and equipment of earlier local life.

Numeration eases administrative chores, and Guyana is, charmlessly, alas, divided into (I think) 10 numbered regions. Still a denizen of no.17 village, no.2 Region, if such exists, would probably make boisterous play with the lack of identity. Silence is not a preferred option for your average adult Guyanese. Rhythm in movement, or in the ears, or in the surroundings, power in the utterance, all those give zest to the day; while to ears of low function like mine, speech needs to be replayed at one third of the speed to convey the gist of the meaning. One must be fair; my way of pronouncing the language that is common to the Guyanese and myself will not be readily intelligible to the local listeners. We each have to work at it.

So you are meeting Caribbean with an ingredient added. As every island and islander is different, so it is with Guyana. Though part of a great continent, Guyana is substantially a continental island. No easy access to Venezuela. Lethem, the only practical linkage to Brazil (through Boa Vista) in itself an arduous journey from the capital and the coast, and the unbridged Corentyne River makes Surinam untrodden territory for most.

If I leave out most mention of Guyana's Amerindian roots, it is because the links are within the broad swathes of forest, mountain and jungle country to which travel is inhibited by time and distance. No point in a tourist oversight, in by plane and straight out. There are plenty of isolated locations where tribal traditions and activities live on, and the linguistic roots are preserved.

Then, too, the Essequibo mouth is so wide that it generates its own island life for Guyana. Leguan and Wakenaam are wholly familiar to us, and one might suppose them teeming with westernised life. You can circumnavigate both islands and barely detect a sign of habitation, while Hog Island closer to the open sea, is larger than either, and there is barely a sign of habitation there to detect.

You see Guyana is smaller in population than most of us envisage. Around  $\frac{3}{4}$  million live there, one third in Georgetown, and the proportion is likely to be higher for the line between what is and isn't Georgetown is not really visible on the ground.

Don't miss the Arabian Coast. This takes you north. If you were starting from New Amsterdam, floating toll bridges take you comfortably across the Berbice and Demerara Rivers (you hardly noticed the Canje, when you crossed it) and then you reach the Essequibo at Parika. You can take a ponderous, but doubtless efficient, 50 year old survivor of colonial days, with capacity for hundreds, or you take your chance with a local speedboat. Smashing! Or that's what it sounds like when the wooden hull hits bottom. There are a lot of unrepaired potholes in the waters of the Essequibo. You take a 20 mile run to Supenaam. (Have you heard of it? Now you see it, now you don't.) Then you are back on dry, low land on a perfectly good road to take you to Charity. By way of Aurora; and Airy Hall; and Suddie; and Belfield; and Zorg (that you will miss, if you blink); and Queenstown; and Taymouth Manor; and Reliance (but not the Canje one); and Bush Lot; and this is where Anna Regina presides, with Henrietta in attendance; and next to an anonymous Sparta, whose name board proclaims FEAR NOT.

Charity brings you to the Pomeroon, and you have now sampled all the major coastal rivers. And you leave a puzzle unresolved by your travels. It's this. In the course of this journey, you pass through Agricola; Tarlogy (Tarlogie); Philadelphia; Cotton Tree; Plaisance – I mention but a few. All these places provide postmarks that are difficult to unobtainable in the earlier days of the postal services, and they are all on the principal routes. I have seen sufficient of the country's postmarks not to be able to explain the shortage and the anomalies. We just have to live with them.



Weldaad Post Office



Parika Post Office





Suddie Post Office



Wakenaam Post Office



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## JAMAICA

### Railway TPO Cancellation Type 2

BY STEVE JARVIS



With reference to the article in Bulletin No. 237, June 2013, the following examples of this TPO mark have been identified:

YYYYMMDD	Origin	Destination	Line
19140202	Cambridge Railway	Kingston	Mo Bay line
19140223	Mo Bay	USA	Mo Bay line
19160727	Ipswich	Kingston	Mo Bay line
19161221	Montpelier	UK	Mo Bay line
19171231	Kingston?	Annotto Bay	Port Antonio line
19190507	Highgate Railway	?	Port Antonio line
19190902	St. Margarets Bay	Kingston	Port Antonio line
19191129	Hartlands Railway	Kingston	Mo Bay line
19200228	Greenvale Railway	UK	Mo Bay line
19200820	Greenvale Railway	Kingston	Mo Bay line
19210107	Hartlands Railway	UK	Mo Bay line
19210203	Montpelier	Kingston	Mo Bay line
19210531	Magotty	Kingston	Mo Bay line
19220513	Cambridge Railway	?	Mo Bay line
19220818	Highgate Railway	USA	Port Antonio line
19220904	Williamsfield Railway	?	Mo Bay line
19220909	St. Margarets Bay	Kingston	Port Antonio line
19230127	Ipswich	Kingston	Mo Bay line

Unfortunately no definitive conclusion can be made regarding use on a particular line.

Strikes from the two routes appear to be from identical cancellers.

Perhaps the canceller was carried by a specific post office clerk or just applied at Kingston for any route?

My thanks to Keith Moh and Andrew Fowles who provided details of their items bearing TPO Type 2.

**Articles wanted for future Bulletins**  
**Anything West Indies related considered**



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## BWISC AUCTION REPORT

Late despatch of the catalogue was an inauspicious send-off for the 2015 auction. Had something gone wrong? Well, only that everybody expects scans of everything nowadays, which almost doubles the preparation time.

It had its effect, of course. The number of postal bidders was about 15 short of what we have come to expect, and for about the first 40 lots the sale lacked lustre. About half were sold, all but 3 below their estimate.

Better news was on its way. Four book bidders had competed for Graham Hoey's delightful staircase vignette die proof (lot 42, £260) and when we reached the 'ex Raymond' section, the book exploded into life. Of these 20 lots, only 2 were left unsold, realisations were about 25% above estimate, and the room hardly got a look in. When one member competed on lot 52, on opening £56 sailed smartly up to £150; and to show that the potential was there in the room too, lot 55, modestly estimated at £30, almost doubled that in live competition. Nor was the magic of the name Raymond the only explanation for the collection of postmarks 'from another source', lot 70, doubled its estimate at £180.

Barbados was a struggle, for only 15 of the 63 lots were 'pre-sold' on the book. Here the room had its turn, and 38 of those on offer were sold with not much space between total estimates and their realisations. Watch out for the inspector's crown which sparked life into lot 73 at £130 (E£58) for we meet it again below.

Bermuda, by contrast, was almost lifeless, 25 lots on offer, just 10 were sold. Six went on the book, three to a single bid in the room, and only the POW cover, lot 159, evoked competition. The reason lies not in the quality of what is offered but in the power of the collections already held within the membership of our Circle.

British Guiana continues in favour – 51 lots, 38 sold, but our solitary Guyana lot went unloved. The realised total here was about 20% above total estimates, consistent with the country's flavour-of-the-month rating in the outside philatelic world. A good slice of the increase came from lot 194, a block always liable to take off, if one moved beyond the minor criticisms of the catalogue description. Nor did condition deter interest in the Summary Jurisdiction block, lot 201 – indeed, the underbidder at £29 looked really disappointed not to get it, and will never know whether the next bid would have won the day.

The designs of lots 195 and 196 were both rejected by our members, as they had been by the original adjudicators. So it's back to the other high-flyer, the Agricola postmark of lot 169. Description suggests it's not quite as rare as you'd think, and a sharp-eyed viewer even noted the original valuation as £50, misread for the catalogue as £90, none of which mattered when a book bidder and a member in the room established between them £180 as the right current level.

Lots of goodies were on offer among the 40 lots of British Honduras and live bidding reclaimed much of the ground left vacant by a mere 6 book bids. The 19 lots which sold totalled about 98% of their estimates, and it seems likely that a proportion of the 21 left unsold will change hands after the sale.

In contrast to 2014, Cayman Islands were in brisk demand, 17 sales out of 21, price uplift here coming with lots 268 and 269, at £105 and £440, with premium plainly attracted by the non-philatelic character of 268, and the strong Jamaica connection of 269, for which the closest under-bidders were at £400 and £420.

Dominica prospered with 18 sold out of 23, with lot 283 in demand, and contributing well to realisations over estimate. Then the buzz diminished. It was not Grenada's year and we must pass on to Jamaica.

Jamaica offered 112 lots, 77 of them sold. Of these, 35 came from Derek Sutcliffe's collection, 30 from that of David Atkinson, for each of which our members continue to show their appreciation. A further 3 lots from David's estate sold in the miscellaneous section, the whole exceeding their estimates by nearly a quarter. And Derek's results? An almost identical uplift.

Of material from elsewhere, the collection of railway postmarks did well at £290 (lot 388). The less than welcome bulk box (lot 427) found book bidders up to £90, but no amount of cajoling from the auctioneer could persuade a member present to trump that and take the box away. The catalogue sounds its own warning about goods of this character. The auction team is not geared to handle them. They take up space,



which is precious, and complicate the movement of material from place to place. If any such arrive in future, the team's solution might be to invoke the Unsolicited Goods and services Legislation ('We don't want it. Come and get it').

Between lot 428 (Leewards at nil) and 535 (end of St. Lucia) there were just 10 bids on the auction book. Those attending the sale were told quite openly of the dearth of competition (how many auctioneers will do that?) and the response was unprecedented. 51 lots in this section – where Nevis also showed book bids at nil – changed hands. Most, of course, went to a single bid at around three-quarters of the estimate, but lot 484 (do you remember the inspectors crown?) made up nearly half of the shortfall on its own. Opening at £36 against an estimate of £48, the book dropped out at £40, and a fierce contest between a member at far right and another at near left, whose incremental steps were perhaps visible only to the auctioneer, ended with a £340 victory from the eyebrow on the left. Whereupon Simon, as auctioneer, suddenly declared in surprise, 'I see that this was a lot of mine', and realising amid the resulting laughter that he had broken a cardinal auction rule, added, 'Well, I have the authority of the executor to say that'.

About half of St. Vincent sold, then Tobago maintained its popularity of recent years, selling 12 out of 14 lots. Interest in the recurrent plate flaws and the surcharge settings is plain to see in the £130, £190, and the tied £180, paid for lots 574, 576 and 578. Total for Tobago was about 50% over estimates.

Trinidad was another to sell only about half the lots on offer, distinguished only for the auctioneer's failure to persuade those present that lot 602 (the rare War Tax 1d, SG:184 used) could be sold on the other side of the Atlantic for far above its catalogue quote. So a bargain at £46 was ignored.

Turks Is. surcharges were in demand and, despite the auctioneer explaining both to the room and, earlier, to the lead book bidder the historic controversy surrounding the listing of SG: 48, lot 636 sold at £340. The debate will continue.

Virgin Is., beloved only of our auction team leader, passed in near silence, 2 sales out of 8, and about a dozen, maybe even a baker's dozen, stayed on through a moderately productive disposal of the last three sections of the catalogue, to applaud the closure of the sale 2 minutes ahead of its promised conclusion at 5.45p.m.

In the end an auction of unusual volatility resulted in a below-par sale of fewer than 60% of the offered lots, but a commendable increase on pre-sale coverage, and a very satisfactory realisation of over £28,000. If prior experience of after-sales can be relied upon, there should be further disposals to come.

Summing up, of the 693 lots in the catalogue, 3 were withdrawn from sale. Of those sold 179 were bought for absent bidders and 237 sold in the room with 274 left unsold. It is understood that in only 18 cases were book bidders driven to their limit on a lot secured, and that against total expenditure of around £13,500, there was unused book capacity of about £6,400.

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## BWISC AUCTION RESULTS

Where the Lot states 'offer' please read the instructions below regarding ordering.

Lot	Real	Lot	Real	Lot	Real	Lot	Real	Lot	Real	Lot	Real
1	£42.00	57	unsold	113	offer	169	£180.00	225	offer	281	£4.25
2	offer	58	£80.00	114	£120.00	170	£31.00	226	offer	282	£25.00
3	offer	59	£65.00	115	offer	171	£105.00	227	offer	283	£160.00
4	£21.00	60	unsold	116	offer	172	£31.00	228	£180.00	284	£21.00
5	offer	61	£58.00	117	£60.00	173	£18.00	229	£200.00	285	offer
6	£85.00	62	£44.00	118	£52.00	174	offer	230	offer	286	£25.00
7	£10.50	63	£58.00	119	£21.00	175	offer	231	£75.00	287	unsold
8	£50.00	64	£28.00	120	offer	176	£56.00	232	offer	288	£70.00
9	£150.00	65	£46.00	121	offer	177	offer	233	£9.00	289	£80.00
10	offer	66	offer	122	£23.00	178	offer	234	offer	290	£46.00
11	£33.00	67	offer	123	offer	179	£70.00	235	offer	291	£32.00
12	unsold	68	£4.50	124	offer	180	£15.00	236	offer	292	£23.00
13	offer	69	£9.00	125	offer	181	offer	237	£13.50	293	£11.00
14	offer	70	£180.00	126	offer	182	£30.00	238	offer	294	offer
15	unsold	71	£42.00	127	offer	183	£17.00	239	£190.00	295	£16.50
16	offer	72	offer	128	£14.50	184	£14.00	240	£27.00	296	£27.00
17	offer	73	£130.00	129	£25.00	185	£320.00	241	£75.00	297	£30.00
18	£5.25	74	£20.00	130	£8.00	186	£1.50	242	offer	298	£33.00
19	£28.00	75	£13.50	131	£35.00	187	£36.00	243	offer	299	offer
20	£35.00	76	£35.00	132	offer	188	£39.00	244	offer	300	£150.00
21	£110.00	77	offer	133	£20.00	189	£13.50	245	offer	301	offer
22	£23.00	78	offer	134	£56.00	190	£5.25	246	offer	302	offer
23	offer	79	£24.00	135	£31.00	191	£360.00	247	£21.00	303	offer
24	£16.50	80	£16.50	136	£8.00	192	£11.50	248	£23.00	304	unsold
25	£13.50	81	£21.00	137	offer	193	£37.00	249	offer	305	unsold
26	£36.00	82	£30.00	138	offer	194	£360.00	250	offer	306	£34.00
27	£14.50	83	offer	139	offer	195	offer	251	£9.50	307	offer
28	offer	84	offer	140	offer	196	offer	252	£30.00	308	£58.00
29	offer	85	offer	141	offer	197	£85.00	253	unsold	309	£5.00
30	offer	86	offer	142	£3.75	198	£48.00	254	£130.00	310	£13.50
31	offer	87	£23.00	143	£105.00	199	offer	255	£2,100.00	311	offer
32	offer	88	offer	144	£100.00	200	£23.00	256	£95.00	312	£30.00
33	offer	89	£110.00	145	offer	201	£30.00	257	£130.00	313	£18.00
34	£60.00	90	£36.00	146	offer	202	£280.00	258	£240.00	314	offer
35	offer	91	offer	147	£36.00	203	£17.00	259	£9.00	315	offer
36	£23.00	92	£11.50	148	offer	204	£7.50	260	offer	316	£150.00
37	£12.00	93	£7.50	149	offer	205	£12.00	261	£100.00	317	£39.00
38	£15.00	94	£30.00	150	£190.00	206	£44.00	262	£24.00	318	£35.00
39	offer	95	offer	151	£600.00	207	£31.00	263	£60.00	319	£42.00
40	offer	96	£36.00	152	offer	208	offer	264	£52.00	320	£36.00
41	offer	97	offer	153	£48.00	209	£13.50	265	£19.00	321	£100.00
42	£260.00	98	£48.00	154	£30.00	210	£19.00	266	£12.00	322	£260.00
43	offer	99	offer	155	offer	211	offer	267	offer	323	offer
44	£39.00	100	unsold	156	offer	212	£50.00	268	£105.00	324	£15.00
45	£90.00	101	£36.00	157	offer	213	offer	269	£440.00	325	£70.00
46	£58.00	102	£22.00	158	offer	214	£100.00	270	offer	326	£50.00
47	£90.00	103	offer	159	£95.00	215	offer	271	£17.50	327	£25.00
48	£30.00	104	£13.50	160	£11.50	216	£75.00	272	£9.00	328	unsold
49	£16.00	105	£52.00	161	offer	217	£160.00	273	£8.00	329	unsold
50	£65.00	106	£40.00	162	£240.00	218	offer	274	unsold	330	unsold
51	£58.00	107	£300.00	163	unsold	219	£6.00	275	offer	331	offer
52	£150.00	108	£52.00	164	unsold	220	£8.50	276	£26.00	332	unsold
53	£44.00	109	£70.00	165	£75.00	221	£105.00	277	£26.00	333	unsold
54	£60.00	110	£160.00	166	offer	222	offer	278	£15.50	334	unsold
55	£56.00	111	£58.00	167	£12.00	223	offer	279	£35.00	335	£9.00
56	£60.00	112	£120.00	168	£85.00	224	£240.00	280	£42.00	336	unsold



Lot	Real	Lot	Real	Lot	Real	Lot	Real	Lot	Real	Lot	Real
337	unsold	397	£26.00	457	offer	517	£12.50	577	£44.00	637	£46.00
338	unsold	398	£15.00	458	offer	518	£16.00	578	£180.00	638	£120.00
339	unsold	399	£24.00	459	offer	519	£11.50	579	offer	639	£12.00
340	unsold	400	£12.00	460	offer	520	unsold	580	£2.50	640	offer
341	£58.00	401	£48.00	461	£58.00	521	offer	581	offer	641	£105.00
342	unsold	402	£36.00	462	offer	522	£6.50	582	offer	642	offer
343	£60.00	403	£40.00	463	offer	523	offer	583	£36.00	643	£10.00
344	£54.00	404	£9.00	464	£42.00	524	£9.00	584	£75.00	644	£42.00
345	£80.00	405	£7.50	465	unsold	525	£21.00	585	unsold	645	offer
346	£170.00	406	£50.00	466	£24.00	526	£26.00	586	£31.00	646	offer
347	£80.00	407	£26.00	467	£16.50	527	offer	587	£140.00	647	unsold
348	£270.00	408	£40.00	468	£38.00	528	offer	588	offer	648	offer
349	£105.00	409	£38.00	469	£250.00	529	offer	589	unsold	649	offer
350	£120.00	410	offer	470	£170.00	530	offer	590	£46.00	650	offer
351	£80.00	411	£30.00	471	£115.00	531	£39.00	591	£15.50	651	offer
352	£300.00	412	£190.00	472	£15.00	532	£11.50	592	£5.50	652	£10.50
353	£3.00	413	£18.00	473	£23.00	533	offer	593	£22.00	653	£19.00
354	£31.00	414	£95.00	474	offer	534	£9.00	594	offer	654	offer
355	£33.00	415	£60.00	475	offer	535	£5.25	595	unsold	655	offer
356	£115.00	416	£31.00	476	offer	536	£46.00	596	unsold	656	offer
357	£30.00	417	£22.00	477	offer	537	£40.00	597	£18.00	657	£39.00
358	offer	418	offer	478	£33.00	538	£30.00	598	unsold	658	offer
359	offer	419	£42.00	479	£530.00	539	£46.00	599	unsold	659	offer
360	offer	420	£13.00	480	offer	540	£65.00	600	£12.00	660	£52.00
361	offer	421	offer	481	£120.00	541	£24.00	601	£260.00	661	offer
362	£33.00	422	£23.00	482	£58.00	542	offer	602	£46.00	662	£31.00
363	£85.00	423	offer	483	offer	543	£65.00	603	£26.00	662	£37.00
364	offer	424	offer	484	£340.00	544	£120.00	604	£30.00	664	£8.00
365	£30.00	425	£12.00	485	offer	545	£80.00	605	unsold	665	offer
366	offer	426	£23.00	486	offer	546	offer	606	£31.00	666	offer
367	£140.00	427	£90.00	487	offer	547	£21.00	607	unsold	667	£150.00
368	£27.00	428	offer	488	offer	548	£20.00	608	unsold	668	offer
369	£115.00	429	offer	489	£20.00	549	offer	609	£33.00	669	£12.00
370	unsold	430	£27.00	490	£28.00	550	offer	610	offer	670	£9.00
371	£95.00	431	offer	491	£11.50	551	offer	611	offer	671	£54.00
372	unsold	432	£54.00	492	offer	552	offer	612	offer	672	offer
373	£20.00	433	offer	493	unsold	553	offer	613	£19.00	673	£56.00
374	unsold	434	£30.00	494	£6.00	554	offer	614	offer	674	£9.00
375	£58.00	435	offer	495	offer	555	offer	615	offer	675	£15.00
376	unsold	436	offer	496	offer	556	£65.00	616	£40.00	676	£3.75
377	offer	437	£120.00	497	offer	557	offer	617	£9.50	677	£27.00
378	£60.00	438	unsold	498	offer	558	£46.00	618	offer	678	offer
379	£5.00	439	offer	499	offer	559	£75.00	619	offer	679	offer
380	offer	440	£60.00	500	offer	560	offer	620	offer	680	offer
381	£50.00	441	£10.50	501	£30.00	561	£90.00	621	£4.50	681	£10.50
382	offer	442	offer	502	£39.00	562	£21.00	622	offer	682	offer
383	£8.00	443	£58.00	503	offer	563	offer	623	offer	683	£9.00
384	offer	444	£19.00	504	offer	564	offer	624	offer	684	offer
385	£100.00	445	offer	505	£70.00	565	£11.50	625	£15.00	685	£27.00
386	£115.00	446	£46.00	506	£15.00	566	offer	626	£24.00	686	£40.00
387	£65.00	447	offer	507	£120.00	567	offer	627	£150.00	687	offer
388	£290.00	448	offer	508	£46.00	568	£56.00	628	£85.00	688	£15.00
389	£95.00	449	£170.00	509	£9.00	569	£220.00	629	£27.00	689	offer
390	offer	450	offer	510	£15.00	570	£25.00	630	£38.00	690	offer
391	£200.00	451	£70.00	511	offer	571	£115.00	631	£52.00	691	£38.00
392	£100.00	452	offer	512	offer	572	£37.00	632	£300.00	692	offer
393	offer	453	offer	513	£100.00	573	£37.00	633	£70.00	693	£3.00
394	£32.00	454	offer	514	£4.75	574	£130.00	634	£180.00		
395	£23.00	455	offer	515	offer	575	£31.00	635	£220.00		
396	£34.00	456	unsold	516	offer	576	£190.00	636	£340.00		

**Please read the Introductory Notes carefully before ordering.**

1. No offer of discount applies to any item noted against a reserve (RESV) or a nett price (NETT).
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3. Jamaica. All lots marked 'Note3' can be purchased, single or otherwise, at 70% of estimate (price shown is 70%). No other discount applies.
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6. These eight lots may be offered together at a nett price of £180. If any have been previously sold, the residue will be discounted pro rata.
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8. Any two of these lots ordered (679–684) qualify for 25% discount
9. Together (687 & 689) £25, offer lapses where either is pre-sold.
10. Offered discounts apply to every bona fide order, and will still apply where some lots ordered have already been sold. Priority is established by time of receipt of order. Members who do not receive as response will have drawn a blank against earlier sales.
11. Lot 148 is SG121e Cat £720

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Discount	%		
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Lot	£££	Note	Lot	£££	Note	Lot	£££	Note	Lot	£££	Note	Lot	£££	Note
2	14		139	550		275	24		459	10		567	15	
3	19		140	34		285	32		460	95		579	60	
5	10		141	39	Note4	294	21		462	270	Resv	581	5	
10	360	Resv	145	160		299	24		463	32	Note4	582	30	
13	64		146	510		301	11		474	17		588	45	
14	115		148	160	Note9	302	7		475	55		594	16	
16	41		149	39		303	24		476	158		610	62	
17	72		152	38		307	52		477	250	Nett	611	60	
23	19		155	40		311	26	Note5	480	16		612	32	
28	52		156	19		314	22		483	45		614	30	Note5
29	150	Resv	157	10		315	10		485	19		615	5	
30	170	Resv	158	18		323	165		486	60		618	18	Note6
31	130	Resv	161	8		331	63		487	16		619	23	Note6
32	55	Note4	166	39		358	95		488	10		620	21	Note6
33	36		174	28		359	112		492	70		622	17	
35	33		175	95		360	126		495	19		623	34	
39	175		177	29		361	23	Note3	496	13		624	7	
40	55		178	8		364	74	Note3	497	38		640	15	
41	71		181	32		366	36	Note3	498	10		642	13	
43	63		195	95		377	8	Note3	499	20		645	42	
66	17		196	475		380	14	Note3	500	12		646	11	
67	19		199	40		382	98	Note3	503	85	Note5	648	32	Note5
72	28		208	32		384	8	Note3	504	63	Note5	649	50	
77	150		211	18		390	39		511	10	Note5	650	66	Note4
78	25		213	75	Resv	393	18	Note3	512	56	Note5	651	27	
83	55		215	16		410	32		515	50	Resv	654	16	
84	20		218	100	Note4	418	48		516	40	Note5	655	33	
85	48		222	75		421	22	Note3	521	32	Note5	656	12	Note5
86	55		223	85		423	30		523	26	Note5	658	25	Note5
88	38		225	120		424	13		527	20	Note5	659	9	
91	30		226	47		428	340	Note4	528	24	Note5	661	8	
95	10		227	120		429	33	Note4	529	55	Note5	665	650	Note4
97	32		230	110		431	98	Note4	530	24	Note5	666	145	Note4
99	40		232	35		433	96	Note4	533	16	Note5	668	22	Note6
103	8		234	12		435	65	Note4	542	55	Note4	672	13	
113	75	Note5	235	14		436	40	Resv	546	590	Note4	678	23	
115	35		236	59		439	12		549	25	Note6	679	46	Note8
116	18		238	71		442	49	Note4	550	55	Note6	680	34	Note8
120	28		242	74		445	14		551	34	Note6	682	38	Note8
121	24	Note5	243	48		447	36		552	16	Note6	684	11	Note8
123	32	Note5	244	55		448	36		553	39		687	14	Note9
124	28	Note5	245	48		450	19		554	11		689	16	Note9
125	25	Note5	246	24		452	13		555	28		690	7	
126	8	Note5	249	70		453	48		557	120	Note4	692	10	
127	15		250	52		454	63		560	37	Note5			
132	110	Note5	260	13		455	20		563	16	Note5			
137	20		267	15		457	19		564	30				
138	260	Note4	270	3		458	51		566	12				



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**THE W. REGINALD BRAY COVER THAT FOOLED THE BRITISH,  
THE JAMAICAN AND THE AMERICAN POSTAL AUTHORITIES**

**BY MICHAEL HAMILTON**

When I acquired this cover I never imagined that I, and probably you, would end up searching the internet for a single cigarette card and a book entitled "The Englishman who Posted Himself and Other Curious Objects". Both were acquired within hours at a cost of £2.45 including postage, and £8.81 post free (prices varied) respectively.



My interpretation of the cover was that it was sent from the U.S.A. to England and then forwarded from Fulham to Kingston, Jamaica. In its search for its recipient it acquired a previously unrecorded blue ink cachet in the style of a temporary rubber datestamp at the Myrtle Bank Hotel; was advertised, unclaimed and returned to the addressee as requested on reverse.



The story which unfurls makes interesting reading as an out of the blue email from a John Tingey initially requested enlarged 300dpi scans front and back and was followed up by a 'not convinced the US stamps actually belong' and 'suspicions that the first address will turn out to be a non-existent address'. John then explained that he thought the envelope was deliberately entered into the British postal system with the appearance of having already been successfully delivered and subsequently redirected. This would, in his opinion, explain the use of the US stamps to make it look like it had originated in America but the cover



in reality had started life much closer to home. I was also informed that the addressee was a Mr. Ernest Arnold of Crofton Park, London.

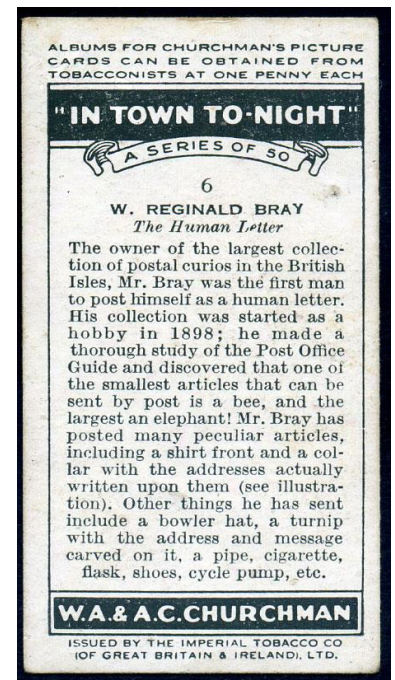
Closer examination by me showed that the US stamps were postmarked by what I thought might be a 4-line machine pre-cancel. I could see what appeared to be YORK, N.Y. (second line), TION of STATION (third line) PM (fourth line) and base of a top line buried under the sealing paper. The fact that the STA of STATION was not apparent was justified by a split in the middle of the four stamps as they were actually two horizontal pairs. Furthermore the stamps were most definitely tied (just) by the Fulham datestamp. I enlarged the address portion hoping to find Crofton Park but as I looked and looked I could not make any sense of the address at all.



Everything was hanging in the balance as far as I was concerned and my cover still innocent and free of manipulation.

John's next email was a real shocker as he explained what he thought had really happened!

The sender was W. Reginald Bray, a well-known postal prankster who devised all manner of devious methods to add to his collection of postmarks especially on covers and cards delivered to his home address in Forest Hill. His great friend Ernest Arnold was a willing participant in many of Bray's antics.



I suggest this envelope underwent the following steps:

- Bray acquired two pairs of used US stamps and applied them to the cover and addressed it to Arnold using a fictitious address. Arnold then crossed out the original address in reddish pen and again in black pen and wrote on the Jamaica address – I suspect there is no such place as "Villa du Regal".
- Bray placed the cover into a postbox in Fulham.
- The Post Office found the cover which looked like it had been sent from the US and redirected legitimately.
- The cover was transported to Jamaica where the authorities, unable to locate a 'Villa du Regal' tried the Myrtle Bank Hotel maybe along with some others.
- There may have been a guest called Arnold who opened the envelope and realised that they were not the intended recipient, hence the 'Opened in error' statement.
- The item of 'undelivered mail' was taken to the Dead Letter Office and advertised but never collected.
- After the requisite period of time the envelope was sent back to England according to the 'If undelivered' statement on reverse.
- A delighted Bray added a number of interesting postal marks to his collection.'



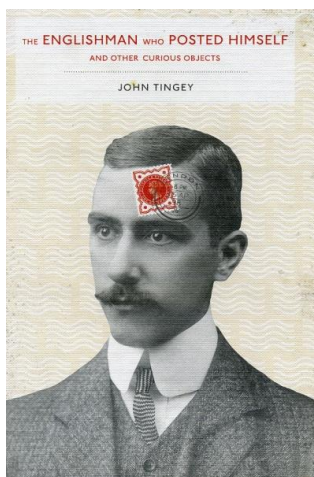
Links were also supplied so that I could find out more about W. Reginald Bray at [www.wrbray.org.uk](http://www.wrbray.org.uk) and <http://www.papress.com/html/book.details.page.tpl?isbn=9781568988726>

Closer inspection suggests the story continues as follows:

A first access to contents was made in the conventional way along the top of envelope and sealing was made with stamp selvage showing a single purple jubilee line from either Jamaica QV 1d or 2½d Keyplate (SG.27, 29) which were both using identical coloured key plate 4 at that time. Width is approx. 17.5mm and the left edge shows a continuous distinct indentation probably left from the guillotining of the sheets. Appended alongside in manuscript is 'Sealed at G.P.O. Jamaica' with initials.

A second access to any contents, made at an undetermined date, has been made by unkindly lifting the top right portion of flap which in turn tears both the right-hand side flap and the middle of the stamp selvage above. This partial opening may have been made at Kingston, with a second set of bolder initials, to ascertain an exact USA return address as the American authorities applied their mauve Foreign Division 'RECEIVED IN BAD CONDITION' five weeks after the Jamaican AP 9 00 departure date.

Possibly there was an enclosure with inadequate but sufficient merit for Jamaica to return the entire to the USA, as the next stage determined that the cover should be forwarded to the 'If undelivered' Forest Hill (England) address. The 'BAD CONDITION' was gently scored through in blue crayon and bold 'X's applied to highlight either side of the England return address.

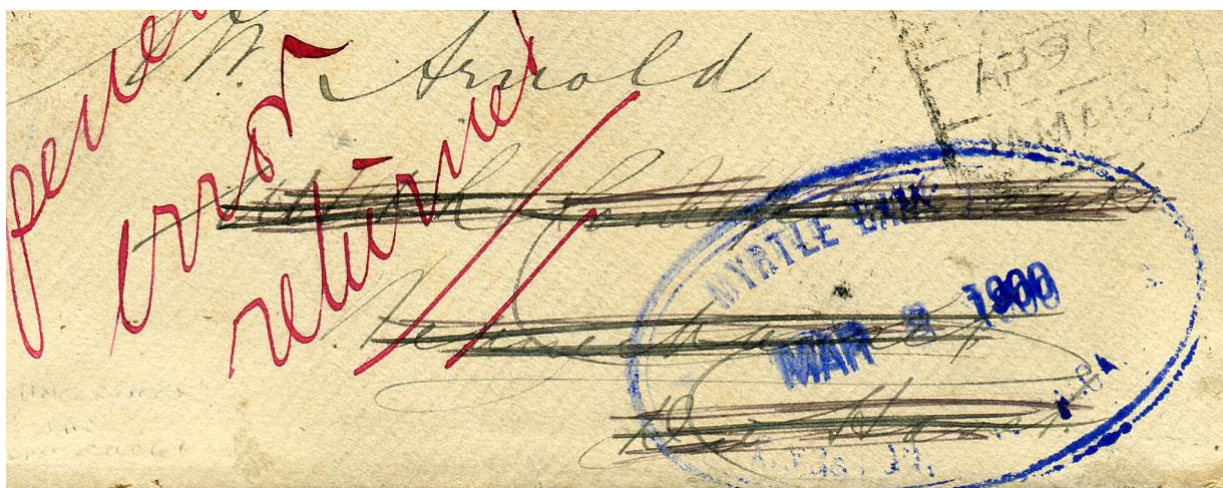


John Tingey also mentioned that Bray was well known for inventing schemes to add foreign postmarks to his collection and that he was particularly interested in looking for any 'angles' that Bray might employ. With this in mind it would seem that the 'Villa du Regal, Kingston' was selectively chosen as this undoubtedly is Bray's French interpretation for Kings House, the official residence of The Governor. A scan showing the Governor's crest, as used on both 1896 black mourning letterhead and envelope flap, is illustrated.



Bray's cunning fooled the British post office into believing they were handling a genuine American letter. The Jamaican post office was fooled into thinking it should be returned to its American origin; and the American postal authorities failed to acknowledge the original (deliberate?) underpaid 5c rate to England and that their stamps never even belonged to the entire.

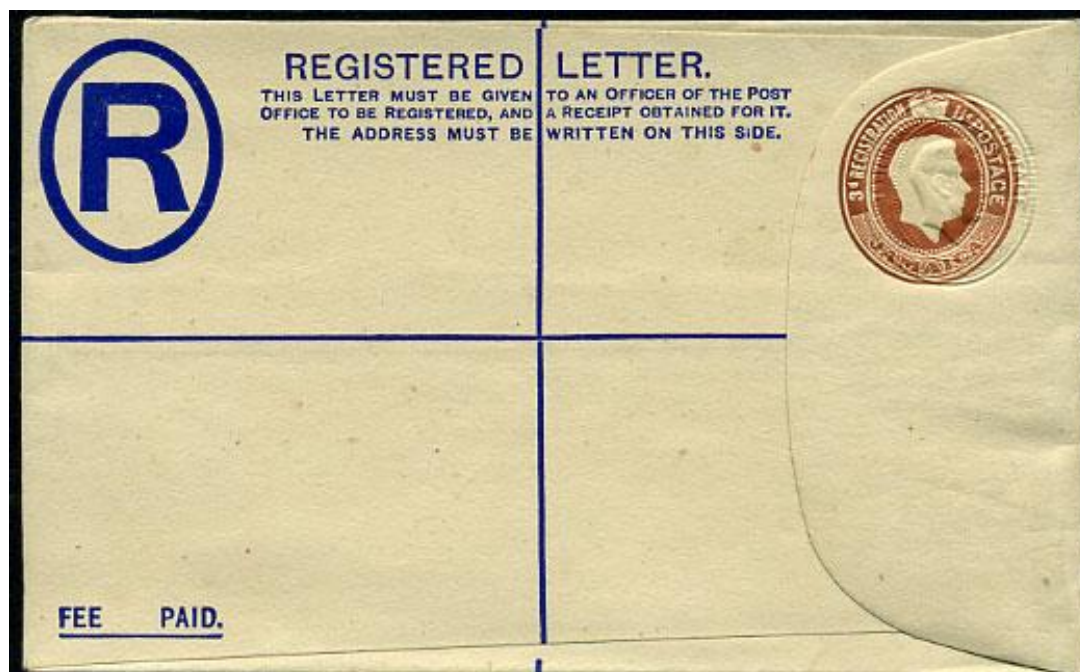
The Second Boer War commenced activities on 11th October 1899. Bray's letter was sent from Fulham to the Governor's residence 29th January 1900. Could it possibly be that Bray surmised that the bold red 'Opened in error returned' might have actually been written by the Governor's own hand, and therefore instigated his earliest thoughts on collecting autographs of the famous.



The story remains unfinished, and presents all readers with a unique opportunity to participate in its conclusion. Bray was a keen cyclist and could have placed the cover in a Fulham letter box, or with the Fulham post office, on Sunday 28th. Should it have had a JA 28 00 PM postmark, or a JA 29 00 AM postmark? Was there a reason he chose Fulham (8.8 miles away along the South Circular Road) as opposed to placing it in the wonderful old Penfold pillar box conveniently situated outside his Forest Hill front door. The British populace were clamouring for latest news of the Boer War and the first 36-page illustrated edition of The Sphere magazine was published two days earlier on Saturday 27th January 1900. Had there been a mention of movement of the West India Regiment, or mention of the Jamaica Governor which spurred him into action? How would this 20 year old Bray have known of King's House and concocted 'Villa du Regal'? The greatest challenge is to decipher the original Arnold address, can any words be picked out? Is it a British address, foreign address, or just perfected gibberish!?

**JAMAICA KGV1 3D REGISTRATION 1½D POSTAGE PSRE WITH DOUBLE EMBOSSED, ONE ALBINO**  
**BY MICHAEL HAMILTON**

Recently acquired within the Jamaica collection of W.H. Crow of Wanstead, London is the illustrated KG6 Postal Stationery Registered Envelope with clear double embossing, one albino. Preliminary research shows that neither the Bob Swarbrick nor the Mark Swetland stationery collections had an example and various dealers approached have seen no such example for Jamaica either.





**INCOMING MAIL TO JAMAICA FROM THE FALKLAND ISLANDS****BY SIR GEOFFREY PALMER**

The Spink & Sons sale of Major Spafford's Falkland Islands collection, in February 2015, included a lovely registered cover to Kingston Jamaica date stamped at Port Stanley with Andrews type 7 of 20 May 1891 with a transit mark for London dated 26 June and arrival Jamaica 24 July 1891. This was carried on the Kosmos Line steamer Pentaur which left Port Stanley on 21 May 1891. Mail was offloaded at Le Havre on 23 June and arrived in London 26 June.

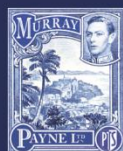
Postage rate 2½d per ½oz from 1 January 1891 and registration fee 2d from 1 January 1879, total 4½d.



The only recorded bisect cover to Jamaica. Hammer price £6,500 BP + VAT £1,560 = £8,060.

Provenance: Nabarro – February 1959, Christie's Robson Lowe rarity sale May 1990.

Literature: Numbered G1 on page 59 of 'The Falkland Islands: The 1891 Provisionals' by Malcolm Barton.



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## NEVIS

### BOOK REVIEW

BY BILL GIBB

**Nevis: The Stamps and Postal History 1661–1890** by Federico Borromeo and Charles Freeland

200 x 280mm, hard backed with dust jacket, vii + 211 pages, ISBN 978-1-907481-19-2.

Available from Pennymead Auctions, £35.00 (£32.00 BWISC Members) plus P&P.

This is a beautifully produced book in the style of the recent Study Circle volumes on Trinidad and on Tobago. It covers all the expected areas of Nevis history, postal history and philately with the additional bonus of descriptions of the few great Nevis collections as well as an audit of all major auctions containing Nevis material, both major and minor. A very useful addition is a census of all known incoming covers within the period covered. The list of Nevis rarities and their provenance is fascinating.

To expand the knowledge of such a small, though historic, Island to over 200 pages is an extraordinary feat, creating an encyclopaedic work. References are placed at the bottom of the page where appropriate, eliminating the need to flick back and forward as you read the text.

For those of us who have persevered for years with the now ancient Melville book, Federico Borromeo's 'Great Collections' booklet and a plethora of clippings, notes and photocopies, this book is a tour de force.

The census of recorded covers, while it can never be exhaustive, covers pre-stamp, Nissen and Parker engraved and lithographed issues and the De La Rue issues. The relative scarcity of these early covers is made apparent, particularly the rarity of De La Rue issues on cover. Although the philatelic bi-sects are not individually listed, there is sufficient information to give a useful overview of their use and survival.

For me, and I suspect a good few others, the mysteries of the various lithographic transfers is clarified in depth and our collections will have to be re-visited to check if our assumptions were correct.

This is a work which will grace any philatelic library and is a must for any collector with the slightest interest in Nevis. Congratulations to the authors and to the editor, Peter Ford.

### B.W.I. OFFERS FROM STOCK

<b>ANTIGUA.</b> 1882 ½d complete right pane of 60 including 'detached triangle' (R.3/3). Unmounted mint. SG 21/21a. <b>£300</b>	<b>JAMAICA.</b> 1916 1½d marginal block of four, one with 'S' in 'STAMP' omitted. Very fine used. SG 71b. <b>£130</b>
<b>BAHAMAS.</b> 1920 3d corner Sheet No copy with 'C' of 'CA' missing from watermark. Very fine mint. SG 109a. <b>£650</b>	<b>JAMAICA.</b> 1941 5/- Line Perf 14. Lower marginal with part DLR imprint. Very fine mint. Exceptional rarity. SG 132a. <b>£4750</b>
<b>BARBADOS.</b> 1892 Master Die Proof for large 'Seal of Colony' vignette in unfinished design dated '2 FEB.92'. <b>£500</b>	<b>LEEWARDS.</b> 1938 (1 <sup>st</sup> ) 10/- Keyplate block of four. Unmounted mint. SG 113. <b>£550</b>
<b>BRITISH GUIANA.</b> 1882 1c sheet of twelve (1 <sup>st</sup> Printing) Pos# 12 with 'SPECIMEN' double. SG 162/c, 164. <b>£1500</b>	<b>NEVIS.</b> 1876 1/- with 'crossed lines on hill' (Pos# 9). Very fine mint. Extremely scarce. SG 14b. <b>£1500</b>
<b>BRITISH HONDURAS.</b> 1935 25c Jubilee corner block of four with 'lightning conductor'. Very fine mint. SG 146c. <b>£250</b>	<b>ST LUCIA.</b> 1949 6c UPU with 'A' of 'CA' missing from watermark. Very fine mint. SG 161a. <b>£450</b>
<b>CAYMAN ISLANDS.</b> 1917 1½d 'WAR STAMP' with 'straight serif' (R.10/2). Very fine used. SG 54b. <b>£140</b>	<b>ST VINCENT.</b> 1892 5d on 4d with 'Spicemen' error. Very fine mint. Extremely scarce. SG 59sa. <b>£850</b>
<b>GRENADA.</b> 1950 3d marginal block of four including the 'colon flaw' (R.5/6). Unmounted mint. SG 158ba. <b>£120</b>	<b>TRINIDAD.</b> 1909 1d 'OFFICIAL' with overprint inverted. Very fine mint. SG 09c. <b>£450</b>

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## BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE PUBLICATIONS

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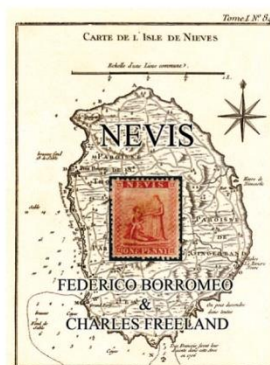
### NEVIS – THE STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY (1661–1890)

by Federico Borromeo, FRPSL and Charles Freeland, FRPSL.

This is the first definitive handbook on Nevis to be published since the slim booklet by Fred Melville in 1910. Despite its small size, this island has attracted collectors from the earliest days. The book traces the pre-stamp history and examines the early Nissen & Parker issues in great detail and goes on to describe the evolution of the De La Rue printings. It also includes chapters on postal stationery, revenue issues and forgeries. This book is a must for all BWI collectors.

A4 size, hardbacked with dust jacket, (viii) + 208 pages. ISBN: 978-1-907481-19-2

**Price: £35.00. BWISC Members' Discount: £3.00.**



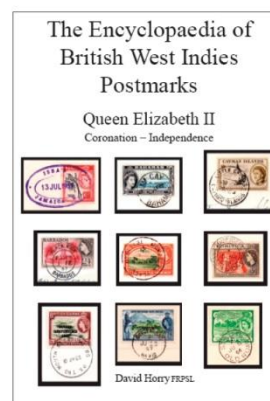
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A4 size, softbacked, perfect bound, (xviii) + 394 pages. ISBN 978-1-907481-22-2

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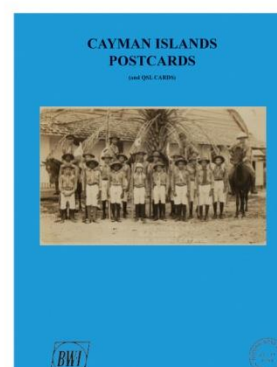
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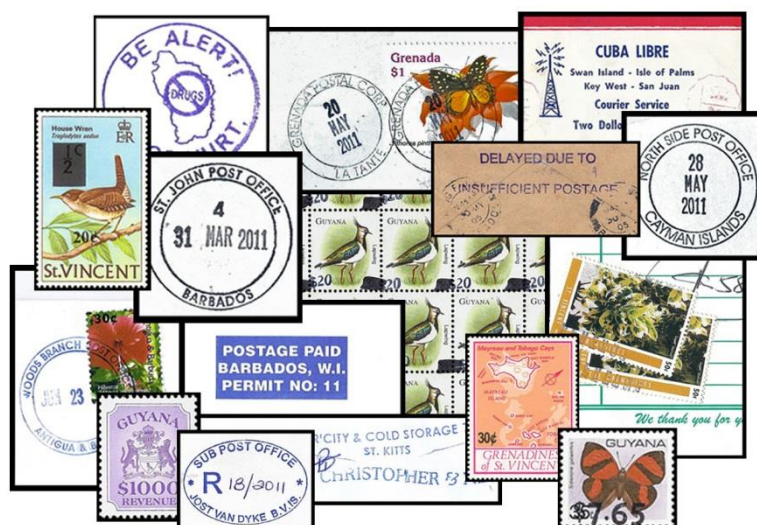
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## MINUTES OF THE 61<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BWISC HELD AT 1:15PM SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015

### **1. Chairman's Welcome and Opening Remarks**

The meeting was opened by Peter Ford who welcomed the 32 BWISC members present. He thanked Grosvenor for their hospitality in allowing BWISC to hold our AGM on their premises. He invited each person to introduce themselves and their collecting interests.

### **2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Steve Jarvis, Kevin Darcy, David Druett, Dennis Mitton and Mike Rego.

### **3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the previous meeting on 26 April 2014, as published in Bulletin No. 241, June 2014, pages 9 to 13, were accepted by the attendees.

Richard Stupples asked what decision had been reached regarding the ABPS. Peter Ford said that we had renewed membership, giving them another chance, to support ABPS during a difficult period for them, but with membership kept under review.

### **4. Report by the General Secretary (George Dunbar)**

Since the last AGM I have attended three regional stamp fairs (Worpex, Swinpex and Scotex) where BWISC took tables. These are generally cheap for us to attend, for example Swinpex asks specialist societies simply to donate a raffle prize. (I donated a bottle of Barbados rum, which seemed appropriate.) I suggest attending in alternate years. At each event, people including some existing members, come and chat, ask questions, or offer tidbits of news. Sometimes they buy a book or two. It is a good channel of communication. We should hold a meeting at one of these events. A BWISC meeting was organised at Autumn Stampex last year, and that has already been described in the Bulletin.

Last year I mentioned a series of articles due to appear in GSM, including the special issue celebrating our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary which appeared in April 2014. The most recent appeared in the January and February editions this year, and I understand that the final one is due to appear in the July issue. An article I wrote gently plugging the Circle in an Aussie-friendly way appeared in Stamp News Australasia in May 2014. The planned targeting of Europe has not yet borne fruit. If any member has an idea for a popular article on BWI that would appeal to a French, Spanish, or German-speaking audience, please contact me.

At London 2015 in May and at Midpex in July the Circle has taken tables, and at London we are sponsoring five frames. Arrangements for the Convention at Honiley in October have been made.

The membership secretary has kindly supplied the following figures:

Membership Stats as at end of 2014:					
	Members	UK	EUR	RoW	Paperless
End 2013	321	203	26	92	44
Joined 2014	15				
Deceased	2				
Lapsed/Resigned	30				
End 2014	304	193	20	91	48

Membership has fallen and the Committee was considering ways to prompt members who had not renewed to do so. The Circle could not set up direct debit arrangements. Peter Fernbank noted that it was possible for members to set up a standing order, as he had done.

### **5. Report by the Editor (Terry Harrison)**

I am pleased to be able to report that 2014 has proved to be another successful year and that there has been a steady flow of articles from existing and new contributors, long may this continue. These contributions enhance the knowledge base of the Study Group and the authors are to be congratulated on their efforts. Even so, for the Bulletin to continue to be a success, articles are a necessity, so do please keep them coming in. On that note, for those of you who feel that your collecting interests are under-represented in the Bulletin why not take the opportunity of providing me with a short article describing a favourite item from your collection.

Once again my thanks are due to Steve Jarvis, Charles Freeland and Peter Ford for the work they do in ensuring that the high standard of the Bulletin is maintained by proof reading each edition and liaising with the printers.

**6. Report by the Treasurer (Ray Stanton)**

The accounts for the year to 31 December 2014 show a surplus of £3,369 which compares with a deficit of £1,051 in 2013.

There are three main reasons for the surplus achieved this year. Firstly Bulletin advertising has increased from £1,539 to £2,420. In the income statement these receipts are shown as reducing the Bulletin costs, which net this year are £136 compared to £895 in 2013.

Secondly there was once again a very substantial donation from the auction team, which was over a thousand pounds greater than last year due to the special 2014 anniversary auction.

Thirdly cost of publications in 2014 was fully met by sales whereas in 2013 there was a deficit. In addition the main donation received was a generous contribution from one of the main philatelic auctioneers towards our publication costs.

Overall therefore this was a very successful year financially for the Study Circle. Our 60th anniversary events were largely self-financing although there was a deficit on the dinner given that we did not ask overseas exhibitors to contribute. We are also receiving payment for the articles used in Gibbons Stamp Monthly although most of that will fall in 2015.

As a result of the surplus the Accumulated Fund has increased to £9,852. This year we have a small loss on the conversion of our US dollar funds and due to the prevailing low interest rates we have had limited ability to earn any interest this year.

I would like to thank John Davis once again for being our auditor and for the advice and help he has given.

**7. Report by the Librarian (Ian Jakes)**

Seven books and one stamp auction catalogue have been borrowed from the library by three members during the last year. This is an improvement upon the previous year when three books were borrowed from the library by one member.

I photocopied, over a period of three rainy afternoons, the "Chronological Postmark History of the Post Towns of Jamaica" written by Bob Topaz over a period of a decade in the British Caribbean Philatelic Journal for the benefit and permanent retention of one member. Now that I am aware of the size of the task, and as we now have duplicate copies of all BCP Journals, thanks to Bob Swarbrick's kind donation, any future request by members for this information will result in journals being posted to members for them to make their own photocopies.

I have researched the library for information relating to events in World War 2 in Jamaica for the benefit of another member, who has now obtained his own copies of relevant books.

I have researched the library for information relating to King George V St. Kitts stamp issues for the benefit of another member.

**8. Report by the Publications Officer (Peter Ford)**

Again I have to report a good year for the BWISC publications empire. Early in the year we published the Tobago book; this was done in much the same format as the Trinidad but of course in a much slimmer volume. It is my intention to eventually follow this with a book on the combined colony of Trinidad and Tobago from 1913 onwards. Ian Jakes' Trinidad Red Cross Labels was next to be published and finally last year we published a definitive book on Nevis by Federico Borromeo and Charles Freeland.

Even by surpassing the sales for 2013, 2014 sales were very good. The top performer was the Tobago book with some 50 sales. We had a small problem with this book initially with the binding falling apart. However our printers were as good as their word and had all unsold books rebound in quick time. Those who complained about the binding had their copies replaced. Peter Fernbank's volume on the Universal Keyplates sold 26 copies with Fitz Roett's Barbados next with 24 sales. Ian Jakes Red Cross booklet sold 20 copies with the Jamaica Airmails selling 13 and Maisel's BG Provisional booklet 10. All in all we sold a total of 217 books and, after commission, received just under £4,000.

So far in 2015 we have published a book on Cayman Islands Postcards and a book on the QEII postmarks of the BWI by David Horry is at the printers as I speak. The Jamaica Military mails will be published shortly and later in the year, we plan to publish a definitive handbook on the stamps of Antigua. Later still we hope to publish a book on the Bahamas.

Hopefully some more budding authors will come out of the woodwork and we can continue our active publications programme.

The heavy burden of postage these days is a cross we all have to bear; however, this can, in part, be alleviated if you order books you want before the London 2015 show and they can be delivered to you there post free. Please contact me with any orders.

### **9. Report by the Chairman of the Committee (Peter Ford)**

2014 was the Diamond Jubilee of the Study Circle and your Committee had been planning for it over three years. All this planning came to a climax in November at the Royal Philatelic Society when we had a display of some classic West Indies material from all over the world. In trying to describe it, one runs out of superlatives; suffice to say, it was a most successful celebration followed by a superb dinner. Thanks must go to Charles Freeland, who enticed members from far and wide to participate, to Peter Fernbank who did much of the donkey work in organising the display, and finally to John Keegan, who showed us that Royal Navy sailors do appreciate good food. Earlier in the year we had a very successful special auction showcasing 60 starred items. Thanks here must go to Simon Goldblatt and his team for the hard work they, as always, put into its success.

In all other respects, it was a successful year for the Study Circle; our finances are in good health showing a surplus, as our Treasurer has already shown. The Bulletin, under Terry Harrison's guidance, goes from strength to strength and our publications programme is ongoing.

Before finishing, I have to make one appreciation, that is for our out-going President, Charles Freeland. In his short tenure, he has been active in helping the Circle to improve by his suggestions and organisational abilities. You may not realise this, but Charles is only the fourth President the BWISC has had in 60 years of its existence. Having decided to change President every two or three years this figure will increase as we make sure we tap the talents of the membership. Charles will continue to give the Committee the benefits of his advice and experience in the future. The Committee invited Graham Booth to stand for the position of President and we hope that you will agree with us by voting for him in a few minutes.

I have to also thank my Committee for their dedication and hard work over the past momentous year for the Study Circle.

### **10. Re-Election of the Chairman of the Committee**

Peter Ford was re-elected unanimously as Chairman of the Committee.

### **11. Election of the President and Re-Election of the Vice-Presidents**

Graham Booth, Proposed by Peter Ford, Seconded by James Podger, was elected unanimously for three years (to April 2018).

Retiring President Charles Freeland, joking that there was really "no work to do", thanked Graham for taking this on. Charles thanked the Committee for supporting him well. The willingness of members to step up and work for the Circle was a sign of its strength. The succession planning of the Circle, which he identified as an important function of any organisation, was in place and will be kept in place. Charles had met several of his objectives as President. First, to expand the number of contributors to the Bulletin. Second, financial strength had been maintained. Third, he thanked Peter Fernbank, John Keegan, as well as Ray Stanton and Peter Ford for their effort and support in coordinating thirty-three exhibitors to deliver a magnificent display at the RPSL in November. Charles thanked everyone, including many in the room and others abroad, who helped us easily smash the record attendance at the RPSL. Their President had said to him since that this large attendance had been useful ammunition in a planning application!

Charles had served as President for four years, staying on an extra year to see through 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events. However, he emphasised his view that three should be the normal cycle.

He had one regret, not enough members were exhibiting competitively, noting that there would be only one BWI exhibit in the May show. This was a challenge he would pass to Graham Booth.

Graham Booth thanked members for their support in electing him, and apologised that he might not have the encyclopaedic breadth of knowledge of BWI philately of Charles Freeland. Nevertheless, he hoped that he would bring something valuable from knowledge and experience outside the Circle.

Simon Goldblatt, Vice-President; Steve Jarvis, Vice-President, were re-elected.

**12. Re-Election of Officers**

The existing Officers and Committee Members were re-elected.

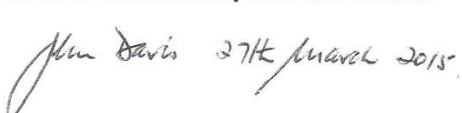
**13. Election of the Auditor**

John Davis was re-elected, with the thanks of members.

**14. Other Business**

Michael Medlicott said that as someone who does bugger-all for the Circle, he would like to offer a sincere thank-you to all those who do. (Charles Freeland reminded us that Michael serves on the Collett Award subcommittee among many other contributions.)

All business having been covered, the Chairman closed the meeting.

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE				
INCOME STATEMENT : YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2014				
	£'s	2014	2013	
<b>INCOME :</b>				
Subscriptions		4,291	4,509	
Publications - Sales less commissions		3,605	4,922	
Articles for publication		189	-	
Auction donation (net of costs)		2,586	1,540	
Other donations		510	2	
Interest received		4	-	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>11,185</b>	<b>10,973</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURE :</b>				
Bulletin - Costs less advertising receipts	136		895	
Distribution and editorial expenses	2,750	2,886	2,710	3,605
Publications : Printing costs		3,545		6,912
60th Anniv dinner - net deficit (Convention in 2013)		565		518
Other room hire & meeting costs		298		164
ABPS affiliation fee		223		-
Collett scroll costs		-		284
Flyers & leaflets		-		175
Officers administration - Stationery, postage, telephone etc		69		161
Bank charges		92		92
Exhibition entry fees		25		-
Website		113		113
		<b>7,816</b>		<b>12,024</b>
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT) INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	£'s	<b>3,369</b>	£'s	<b>(1,051)</b>
<b>BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2014</b>				
<b>ACCUMULATED FUND :</b>				
Balance at 1st January 2014		6,503		7,545
Add : Surplus (Deficit) for the year		3,369		(1,051)
Exchange conversion profit (loss)		(20)		9
	£'s	<b>9,852</b>	£'s	<b>6,503</b>
<b>REPRESENTED BY :</b>				
Cash at banks		7,580		7,521
Cash in hand		-		996
Debtors - amounts due to us		6,627		3,193
Prepaid expenses		200		-
		14,407		11,710
Less : Subscriptions received in advance	(3,027)		(3,055)	
Loan	(1,300)		(1,300)	
Other creditors - Amounts due by us	(228)	(4,555)	(852)	(5,207)
	£'s	<b>9,852</b>	£'s	<b>6,503</b>
<b>AUDITORS REPORT</b>				
I hereby certify that the income statement for the year ended 31st December 2014 is in accordance with the books, vouchers and explanations given to me; and that the Balance Sheet at the 31st December 2014 shows the financial state of the British West Indies Study Circle as at that date.				
J G M Davis FCA				



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**AUCTION UPDATE****BY CHARLES FREELAND****Spink Lugano 29 January (BP 20%)**

Among a fairly bland-looking BWI collection, a Jamaica GV 1s with inverted frame went for €22k and a fine looking unused copy of the Lady McLeod (M11 in our handbook) was €35k.

**Murray Payne 3 March (no BP)**

The single-owner 'Libra' collection was what must have been one of the most remarkable GVI collections ever formed. Strong in proofs, plate blocks and specimen multiples, pretty well every Commonwealth country seemed to be represented by at least half a dozen high value specialised lots. The first surprise for us was the £1.1k paid for a set of 17 Bahamas definitive plate blocks (cat. value £600) ex the Gibbons reference collection, even though the £1 value was the later printing and "only" a corner block. A fine set of the Barbados definitive specimens exceeded catalogue value at £425. In Bermuda a diverse selection of the 5s printings was headed by the bronze-green shade on cover to Egypt with #60 flaw at £2.7k, but the highest price was £4.1k paid for twelve strips of the 1938 specimens on pieces with the circular HMB (Home Mail Branch) cancels. Elsewhere in Bermuda the high values on commercial covers went well but a couple of important 1937 American Bank Note Co proofs were unsold. The pick of the Br. Guiana was a u/m corner block of the rare \$1 perf variety at an astonishing £2.6k and in Br. Honduras two sets of photographic essays with King Edward VIII's head sold at Spink in July 2013 were £1.65k each.

There was a real surprise in Grenada where a strip of four of the rare GVI 10s perf 12 with full imprint was £3.5k, while a marginal U/M block of the same stamp was unsold at an estimate of £1.7k. The used example with a rare genuine cancel sold for a healthy £1.75k, but nine 'Madame Josephs' on the same stamp were about £100 each. A marginal imprint u/m copy of the Jamaica 5s perf variety was £4.6k and a remarkable used corner block of the St. Lucia GVI 12c perf variety £1.35k.

**Grosvenor Auctions 11–12 March (19% BP)**

John Keegan's St. Lucia was the star of this show, but a rather pale star judging by the disappointing results. It started well with £600 for the unclear 1937 fleuron to France with rate marks, and £1k for GB 1d superb used at £1k, with its equally lovely companion 6d at £160. The later straight single stamps were mostly unsold while the splendid range of early blocks were not much better. The block of 12 of the p12½ 1s orange at least sold for a fair £2.3k but only the two blocks of four of the rare 1882 overprints of 4d and 1s exceeded their estimates at £720 and £820. Thompson flaws on the 1886–7 3d and 1s mint were £450 and £150, but the latter had a pulled perf. A lovely plate block of the KE 5s SG76 was £300 and the plate 1 block of the War Tax carmine £320. John's excellent range of 1891–2 surcharges raised little excitement but most sold at the time or in after-sales. Five pages from the Madagascar archives containing three sets of KE and GV specimens went unsold, as did the unique GVI Coronation set of specimens marked ex BW archives on reverse and the essays for the GVI definitive set that John wrote about in last April's Gibbons Stamp monthly. The postal fiscals including several philatelic covers proved a rare bright spot with 100% sold but overall prices were hardly exciting.

Elsewhere a rare used block of the Bahamas Columbus 6d including the I for L flaw seemed decent value at £780 and an early state of the same flaw on the 8d used was a mere £650. In Barbados the standout rarity was the 2d grey SG4a (unbisected) at £780. Bermuda keyplates maintained their recent signs of life in a strong offering where many rare pieces sold well above estimate, with the 1943 2s showing #1 flaw at £1.45k...so what, you might say, but this one was used AND still had its top margin to position it.

**Murray Payne 31 March (no BP)**

There were a couple of highly unusual BWI items in this sale. A 1937 Jamaica 2½d coronation in an imperf block of four seemed a steal at £350 even though a little ratty...does anyone know what its status is? In Antigua, as if to show the auction house is not confined to GVI only, an unrecorded 1908 1d scarlet with its watermark inverted fine mint was £275, while the far more common Barbados 1918 3s inverted and reversed mint was £800. Back in familiar territory, the Bermuda GVI bronze green 5s with chin flaw m/m fetched £3.7k while there was strong demand for St. Kitts GVI used plate flaws.

**Coming events**

The **Grosvenor** auction announced for 3 June will have a range of its normal useful BWI including Br. Honduras and Dominica, while the **Cavendish** sale on 4 June contains about 20 lots of St. Vincent postal history. There will presumably be a **Gibbons** June auction but be aware that their BP has been raised from 15% to 18%...plus a further 3% if you bid online which raises it above Spink. Finally those waiting for the next Vestey sale (of Windward Islands etc.) can now pencil in 24 September as the date.

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**Revisions to a member's details should be provided to Steve Jarvis, contact details inside front cover.**

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An up-to-date Membership Booklet can be downloaded from [www.bwisc.org](http://www.bwisc.org) (please e-mail [info@bwisc.org](mailto:info@bwisc.org), for access details).

**LIBRARIAN'S REPORT****IAN JAKES**

Library lists can be supplied upon application to the Librarian accompanied by an S.A.E. (9" x 6½") – 2nd Class postage for 150 gm rate required. If any member has a book which is not already in the library and which is surplus to requirements, please consider donating it to the library.

**WEB-MASTER'S REPORT****STEVE JARVIS**

All editions of the Bulletin are available on our web site. An updated listing is available for download from the web site or printed copy by application to the Web-Master at £3.00 or \$US5.00.

Please view Charles Freeland's regular updates to his Auction Alert under 'Auction/Dealers'.

**EDITOR'S REPORT****TERRY HARRISON**

The proposed publication schedule is as follows:

Edition	September 2015	December 2015	March 2016	June 2016
Distribute	Mon 31 Aug	Mon 30 Nov	Mon 14 Mar	Mon 13 Jun
From Printer	Tue 25 Aug	Tue 24 Nov	Tue 8 Mar	Tue 7 Jun
To Printer	Mon 3 Aug	Mon 2 Nov	Mon 15 Feb	Mon 23 May
Final Bulletin Revisions	Sun 2 Aug	Sun 1 Nov	Sun 14 Feb	Sun 22 May
Article copy deadline	Sat 25 Jul	Sat 17 Oct	Sat 23 Jan	Sat 7 May
Advert final copy	Sat 18 Jul	Sat 10 Oct	Sat 16 Jan	Sat 30 Apr
Advert book space	Sat 11 Jul	Sat 3 Oct	Sat 9 Jan	Sat 23 Apr

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